

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 9, 17-20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 4,197,146 (Frischmann), is respectfully traversed. Frischmann discloses an article and method of producing molded electrical magnetic components from amorphous metal segments. The Examiner's rationale is based on an interpretation of the above claims, prior to the above-discussed amendment, as inclusive of amorphous particles, in that there was no lower limit for the number of crystal particles recited. In reply, while claims during prosecution are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification, Applicants respectfully submit that any interpretation as broad as that given by the Examiner was not reasonable and not consistent with the specification. Nevertheless, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner finds that in view of the word "connected", it is not clear whether the claim is directed merely to a metal powder or a compacted metal powder. In reply, Claim 10 depends on Claim 4, which depends on Claim 2, which depends on Claim 1, i.e., a metal powder. Nevertheless, the rejection would now appear to be moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Regarding paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the submission filed February 13, 2003 was a Related Cases Statement. The Statement listed two related patent applications. In one, a copy of the original claims, abstract and figures were submitted; in the other, a copy of the application was submitted. Applicants are thus in compliance with applicable regulatory sections. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate that this Related Cases Statement has been considered. If the Examiner still finds that 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1) has not been complied with, he is respectfully requested to specify how.

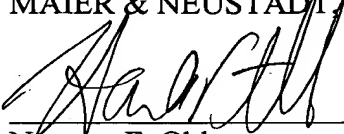
Application No. 09/977,333
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2003

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 2-8, 10, 21 and 26. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the present active claims are now in immediate condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO/HAP/cja

Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779